**Amendments to the Claims:**

1.(Original) A pressure producing apparatus, comprising:

a sheet member which is formed of a piezoelectric material;

at least one first electrode which is embedded in one of a first portion and a second portion of the sheet member, the first portion and the second portion being opposite to each other in a direction of thickness of the sheet member; and

at least one second electrode which is embedded in said one of the first and second portions of the sheet member, such that said at least one second electrode is opposed to said at least one first electrode in a surface direction parallel to one of a first surface of the first portion and a second surface of the second portion, the first surface and the second surface being opposite to each other in the direction of thickness of the sheet member.

2. (Original) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode are embedded in said one of the first and second portions of the sheet member, such that said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode extend from said one of the first and second surfaces of the first and second portions of the sheet member in the direction of thickness thereof.

3. (Original) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a portion of said one of the first and second portions of the sheet member that is located between said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode is polarized in the surface direction in which said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode are opposed to each other, so as to provide an active portion, and wherein when an electric field is

applied to the active portion of the sheet member in a same direction as the direction of polarization of the active portion, the sheet member is curved in the direction of thickness thereof because of a difference between an amount of elongation in the surface direction of said one of the first and second portions of the sheet member in which said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode are provided and an amount of elongation in the surface direction of the other of the first and second portions in which said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode are not provided.

4. (Original) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of said first electrodes and a plurality of said second electrodes, wherein the first and second electrodes are embedded in a limited portion of said one of the first and second portions of the sheet member that is limited in the surface direction.

5. (Original) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of groups of said first electrodes and a plurality of groups of said second electrodes, wherein the plurality of groups of first electrodes are arranged along a plurality of concentric first circles, respectively, and the plurality of groups of second electrodes are arranged along a plurality of concentric second circles, respectively, and wherein the first and second circles are concentric with each other and the groups of first electrodes and the groups of second electrodes are alternate with each other in a radial direction of the concentric first and second circles.

6. (Original) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of groups of said first electrodes and a plurality of groups of said second electrodes, wherein the plurality of groups of first electrodes are arranged along a plurality of first lines, respectively, and the plurality of groups of second electrodes are arranged along a plurality of second lines, respectively,

and wherein the groups of first electrodes and the groups of second electrodes are alternate with each other in a direction intersecting the first and second lines.

7.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the sheet member has, in said one of the first and second surfaces thereof that corresponds to said one of the first and second portions thereof, a plurality of recesses which cooperate with each other to at least partly surround the limited portion of said one of the first and second portions in which the first and second electrodes are provided.

8.(Original) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises a liquid-chamber defining member which cooperates with the other of the first and second surfaces of the sheet member that does not correspond to said one of the first and second portions to define a liquid chamber in which a liquid is accommodated, and wherein the apparatus changes a pressure of the liquid accommodated in the liquid chamber.

9.(Original) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 8, comprising a plurality of groups of said first electrodes and a plurality of groups of said second electrodes, wherein the liquid-chamber defining member includes at least one partition wall which cooperates with said other of the first and second surfaces of the sheet member to define a plurality of liquid chambers in each of which the liquid is accommodated, wherein the plurality of groups of first electrodes and the plurality of groups of second electrodes are provided in a plurality of limited portions of said one of the first and second portions of the sheet member, respectively, that are aligned with the plurality of liquid chambers, respectively.

10.(Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 1, ~~comprising:~~ wherein the first portion of the sheet member comprises a first sheet member which is formed of ~~a~~ the piezoelectric material[[;]] , wherein said at least one first electrode ~~which~~ is embedded in the first sheet member[[;]], wherein said at least one second electrode ~~which~~ is embedded in the first sheet member such that said at least one second electrode is opposed to said at least one first electrode in ~~a~~ the surface direction parallel to ~~a~~ the first surface of the first sheet member [[;]], and wherein the second portion of the sheet member comprises a second sheet member which is stacked on the first sheet member and resists elongation of the first sheet member in the surface direction that occurs when an electric field is applied, in the surface direction, to a portion of the first sheet member that is located between said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode.

11.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode are embedded in the first sheet member such that the first and second electrodes extend from the first surface of the first sheet member in a direction of thickness thereof.

12.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode extend through the thickness of the first sheet member.

13.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 10, comprising a plurality of said first electrodes and a plurality of said second electrodes, wherein the first and second electrodes are embedded in a limited portion of the first sheet member that is limited in the surface direction.

14.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 10, comprising a plurality of groups of said first electrodes and a plurality of groups of said second electrodes, wherein the plurality of groups of first electrodes are arranged along a plurality of concentric first circles, respectively, and the plurality of groups of second electrodes are arranged along a plurality of concentric second circles, respectively, and wherein the first and second circles are concentric with each other and the groups of first electrodes and the groups of second electrodes are alternate with each other in a radial direction of the concentric first and second circles.

15.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 10, comprising a plurality of groups of said first electrodes and a plurality of groups of said second electrodes, wherein the plurality of groups of first electrodes are arranged along a plurality of first lines, respectively, and the plurality of groups of second electrodes are arranged along a plurality of second lines, respectively, and wherein the groups of first electrodes and the groups of second electrodes are alternate with each other in a direction intersecting the first and second lines.

16.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first sheet member has, in the first surface thereof opposite to the second sheet member, a plurality of recesses which at least partly surround the limited portion of the first sheet member in which the first and second electrodes are embedded.

17.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the plurality of recesses comprise a plurality of through-holes which are formed through the thickness of the first sheet member.

18.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a liquid-chamber defining member which cooperates with a second surface of the second sheet member that is opposite to the first sheet member to define a liquid chamber in which a liquid is accommodated, and wherein the apparatus changes a pressure of the liquid accommodated in the liquid chamber.

19.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 18, comprising a plurality of groups of said first electrodes and a plurality of groups of said second electrodes, wherein the liquid-chamber defining member includes at least one partition wall which cooperates with the second surface of the second sheet member to define a plurality of liquid chambers in each of which the liquid is accommodated, and wherein the plurality of groups of first electrodes and the plurality of groups of second electrodes are provided in a plurality of limited portions of the first sheet member, respectively, that are aligned with the plurality of liquid chambers, respectively.

20.(Original) A pressure producing apparatus, comprising:

a sheet member which is formed of a piezoelectric material;

at least one first electrode which is embedded in at least one of a first portion and a second portion of the sheet member, the first portion and the second portion being opposite to each other in a direction of thickness of the sheet member;

at least one second electrode which is embedded in said at least one of the first and second portions of the sheet member, such that said at least one second electrode is opposed to said at least one first electrode in a surface direction parallel to a first surface of the first portion and a second surface of the second portion that are opposite to each other in the direction of thickness of the sheet member; and

a liquid-chamber defining member which cooperates with one of the first and second surfaces of the sheet member to define a liquid chamber in which a liquid is accommodated,

wherein an electric field is applied between said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode, so as to produce a difference between an amount of elongation in the surface direction of the first portion of the sheet member and an amount of elongation in the surface direction of the second portion of the sheet member and thereby curve the sheet member in the direction of thickness thereof and change a pressure of the liquid accommodated in the liquid chamber.

21. (Original) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the liquid chamber of the liquid-chamber defining member accommodates an ink as the liquid, and wherein the apparatus further comprises a nozzle-defining member which defines a nozzle which communicates with the liquid chamber and ejects a droplet of the ink when the sheet member is curved in the direction of thickness thereof to change the pressure of the ink accommodated in the liquid chamber.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The pressure producing apparatus accordingly to claim 20, ~~comprising:~~ wherein the first portion and the second portion of the sheet member comprises a first sheet member and a second sheet member, respectively, which are stacked on each other and at least one of which is formed of a piezoelectric material[[;]], wherein said at least one first electrode ~~which~~ is embedded in said at least one of the first sheet member and the second sheet member[[;]], wherein said at least one second electrode ~~which~~ is embedded in said at least one of the first sheet member and the second sheet member, such that said at least one second electrode is opposed to said at least one first electrode in ~~a~~ the surface direction parallel to a first surface of the first sheet member and a second surface of the second sheet member that are apart from, and opposite to, each other in respective directions of thickness of the first and second sheet members ~~members; and~~ ,wherein ~~a~~ the liquid-chamber defining member ~~which~~ cooperates with one of the first and second surfaces of the first and second sheet members to define ~~a~~ the liquid chamber in which ~~a~~ the liquid is accommodated, and wherein ~~a~~ the electric field is applied between said at least one first electrode and said at least one second electrode, so as to produce a difference between an amount of elongation in the surface direction of the first sheet member and an amount of

elongation in the surface direction of the second sheet member and thereby curve the first and second sheet members in the respective directions of thickness thereof and change ~~a~~ the pressure of the liquid accommodated in the liquid chamber.

23.(Withdrawn) The pressure producing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the liquid chamber of the liquid-chamber defining member accommodates an ink as the liquid, and wherein the apparatus further comprises a nozzle-defining member which defines a nozzle which communicates with the liquid chamber and ejects a droplet of the ink when the first and second sheet members are curved in the directions of thickness thereof to change the pressure of the ink accommodated in the liquid chamber.